WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1.   A method for multicasting changes made in a directory server, comprising the steps of:
    establishing plural multicast groups for a respective plurality of change categories; and
    submitting change information for multicast responsive to a change in the directory server, the change information being submitted to a selected one of the plural multicast groups, for multicast by the selected group, in correspondence to the category of the change.

2.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein the change information is submitted to the multicast groups utilizing a connectionless protocol.

3.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of change information categories comprise add, delete, modify or search changes.

4.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein changes made in the directory server are performed utilizing a Lightweight Directory Server Protocol.

5.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein change information is submitted for multicast by a plug-in that extends capabilities of the directory server.

6.   A method according to Claim 5, wherein the plug-in generates information packets based on changes made in the directory server, and submits the information packets to the multicast groups.

7.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein a client registers with at least one of the plural multicast groups in order to obtain the change information from each multicast group for which the client has registered.

8.   A method according to Claim 7, wherein the client registers with multicast groups established for a plurality of directory servers.

9.   A method for obtaining directory server change information, comprising:
registering as a member of at least one of a plurality of multicast groups, the plurality of multicast groups being established for a respective plurality of change categories; and
receiving a multicast transmission from one of the registered groups, the multicast transmission containing change information submitted to the multicast group in response to a change made in the directory server.

10.   A method according to Claim 9, wherein the member registers with multicast groups established for a plurality of directory servers.

11.   A method according to Claim 9, wherein the member registers with at least one

multicast group corresponding to add, delete, modify or search change categories.

12. An apparatus for multicasting changes made in a directory server wherein plural multicast groups for a respective plurality of change categories are established, comprising:

a processor for executing executable process steps; and

a memory medium storing executable process steps, wherein the executable process steps comprise (a) generating change information responsive to a change in the directory server, and (b) submitting the change information to a selected one of the plural multicast groups for multicast by the selected group, in correspondence to the category of the change.

13. An apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the change information is submitted to the multicast groups utilizing a connectionless protocol

14. An apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the plurality of change information categories comprise add, delete, modify or search changes.

15. An apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein changes made in the directory server are performed utilizing a Lightweight Directory Server Protocol.

16. An apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the executable process steps comprise a

plug-in for extending capabilities of the directory server.

17.   An apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein a client registers with at least one of the plural multicast groups in order to obtain the change information from each multicast group for which the client has registered.

18.   An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the client registers with multicast groups established for a plurality of directory servers.

19.   Computer-executable process steps for multicasting changes made in a directory server wherein plural multicast groups for a respective plurality of change categories are established, the computer-executable process steps comprising:
generating change information responsive to a change in the directory server; and
submitting the change information to a selected one of the plural multicast groups for multicast by the selected group, in correspondence to the category of the change.

20.   Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 19, wherein the change information is submitted to the multicast groups utilizing a connectionless protocol.

21.   Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 19, wherein the plurality of change information categories comprise add, delete, modify or search.

22. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 19, wherein changes made in the directory server are performed utilizing a Lightweight Directory Server Protocol.

23. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 19, wherein the process steps comprise a plug-in for extending capabilities of the directory server.

24. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 19, wherein a client registers with at least one of the plural multicast groups in order to obtain the change information from each multicast group for which the client has registered.

25. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 24, wherein the client registers with multicast groups established for a plurality of directory servers.

26. An apparatus for obtaining directory server change information, comprising:

a device for registering as a member of at least one of a plurality of multicast groups, the plurality of multicast groups being established for a respective plurality of change categories; and

a device for receiving a multicast transmission from one of the registered groups, the multicast transmission containing change information submitted to the multicast group in response to a change made in the directory server.

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27. An apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein the member registers with multicast groups established for a plurality of directory servers.

28. An apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein the member registers with at least one multicast group corresponding to add, delete, modify or search change categories.

29. Computer executable process steps obtaining directory server change information, comprising:

registering as a member of at least one of a plurality of multicast groups, the plurality of multicast groups being established for a respective plurality of change categories; and

receiving a multicast transmission from one of the registered groups, the multicast transmission containing change information submitted to the multicast group in response to a change made in the directory server.

30. Computer executable process steps according to Claim 29, wherein the member registers with multicast groups established for a plurality of directory servers.

31. Computer executable process steps according to Claim 28, wherein the member registers with at least one multicast group corresponding to add, delete, modify or search change categories.

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